DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

POL 14 VIETS S
m 851

FOR RM USE ONLY

REP	AF
EUR	FE
CU	INR 5
P 2	IO 5
FBO	AID 12
S/P 1	G/pm 1
COM	FRB
LAB	TAR
XMB	AIR 5
CIA 20	NAVY 5
USIA 16	NSA 3
	NSC 6

A-140 NO.

CONFIDENTIAL HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 23 1 29 PM 1967
RS/AN
ANALYSIS BRANCH

INFO : Bangkok, CINCPAC for POLAD, Vientiane

FROM : Amembassy SAIGON

DATE: August 18, 1967

SUBJECT : Memorandum of Conversation with]Minister[

REF :

EXCISE

b-1 ed

The enclosed Memorandum of Conversation reports remarks made by]Minister]to the reporting officer on August 17. During this and past conversations with the reporting officer, has conveyed the impression of favoring presidential candidate Tran Van Huong. He has nonetheless worked with the present military government since last fall and during the conversation gave no indication that he would not be willing to continue to do so if the Thieu/Ky slate is elected.

BUNKER

Enclosure: As stated

COPYFLO-PDR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 10/7/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

NOTED

Date of Action 9/11/67

Action Office Symbol EA/VN

Name of Officer

CONFIDENTIL

FORM DS-323 4-62

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY
[X] In [ ] Out

Cleared by: POL:JDNegroponte/bal 8-18-67

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL:JACalhoun

Clearances: POL:TJCheavner

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

Encl. #1 of 1

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

b-1
ed

Participants: , Minister of
John D. Negroponte, Second Secretary of Embassy

Date: August 17, 1967

Place: Saigon

expressed the view that the current presidential campaign has turned into an unfortunate contest between military and civilian elements. He said he thought prospects for meaningful political progress would have been considerably enhanced had the military agreed to support an "elderly and respectable" nationalist politician such as Tran Van Huong with a military man as Huong's running-mate. The military have chosen a different course instead and, in opinion, seem inclined to neglect the importance of civilian-military cooperation.

was quick to put part of the blame on civilian leaders, many of whom he feels have avoided positions of public responsibility during the past few years from lack of commitment or because they fear the risks involved.

suggested as a means of improving the campaign atmosphere and prospects for post-election cooperation, that major presidential contenders meet together to smooth over differences, set a gentlemanly tone for the campaign and reach some agreement on participation in the future government by the eventual losers. By major contenders said he meant slates of Thieu, Suu, and Huong.

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED